

A  
DISCOVERY  
OF

One Sham more :

Design'd against three of

His Majesties Justices of the Peace

For the

County of Surrey.



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A

## DISCOVERY

O F

## One Sham more, &amp;c.

**I**T cannot but very much afflict the minds of all sober and good men, that Forgeries and Subornations have been of late so frequently practised that Perjury seems to become a Trade, which any indigent profligate man, who has nothing left but his Soul to dispose of, may as his last Refuge plausibly set up for. By the original Laws of Society, every man has such a Right to Truth, and his good Name, so long as he does nothing to forfeit it, is so much his Property, that it is an act of high Injustice for any one to endeavour by a false Accusation to deprive him of it. But of all Attempts of this kind none are of so pernicious consequence as those that are level'd against the Esteem and Reputation of persons of Quality and Magistrates, and thereby tend to weaken that Authority by which they are rendred useful and serviceable to the Publick. This I have said in short, and without spinning it to the length of a solemn Preface, only to point the Reader to the Nature of what he is to expect in the following Papers, which contain a villanous Design laid to stab the Reputation of three of His Majesties Justices of the Peace for the County of *Surrey*, and through their sides the Government it self; a Plot hatch'd by one who has since acknowledged himself to be a Rogue, and nursed up by others who are concerned to wipe off the just suspicion of their being such, which with some not uncharitable men they do at present lie under. I for my part shall do no more than the duty of an Historian, give you the Names and Characters of the persons concern'd, set down matter of Fact, and publish Letters whose Originals I have by me to warrant it, with such necessary Connexions, Transitions and Remarks as may give the Reader a clear Prospect of so much of the Contrivance as has as yet come to light: Which take as followeth.

One *John Fitz-Gerrald*, an *Irish* man, and formerly a *Romish* Priest, professing himself to have forsaken the Errours and Superstitions of that Church, came into *England* upon pretence of making some Discovery concerning the Plot, which was said to be carrying on in *Ireland* by the *Popish* Faction, and was one of them who came to the Bar of



the Honourable House of Commons, when divers other *Irish* men did upon the same Account there appear. This *Fitz-Gerrald* living here a considerable time without such supplies as it is probable he might expect, ran deeply in Debt to his Landlord for Diet and Lodging, and upon default of payment was arrested and imprisoned in the Marshalsea in *Southwark*. Some kind of Acquaintance it appears he had contracted, though by what means I know not, with *Mr. Sclater*, *Mr. Sylvester*, Nonconformist Ministers, and other Separatists; from whom he received (upon what score I leave the Reader to judge) several Contributions at such seasons and in such measures as they thought fit. But whether his Allowance from them were too scanty, or was wholly withdrawn, certain it is, that having Acquaintance with one *Mr. Isaac Cooper*, formerly a Servant to *Dr. Tongue*, he wrote and sent to him the following Letter,

Mr. Cooper.

**M***Y* Confinement obstructs me to stir in my owne Affairs; Wherefor I request you to procure some Loyall Majistrate unto whom I could confide to discover some important matters (satisfactorie to the King and Countrie when reveald) on such reasonable Terms as I shall propose, I beseech you faile me not herein, but come to me with all convenient speed who; Am Sir

Your very humble Servant

In the Marshalsea of  
*Southwark*, September  
the 21. 1681.

*John Fitz Gerrald.*

**I** Need not prompt the Reader to take notice of his peculiar way of phrasing, viz. *Loyal Magistrate* and *upon reasonable Terms*; intimating plainly that he was inclinable to be on the Loyal side, if he might thereby procure his Enlargement or have other Encouragement; but that he would not discover any thing without hire.

Well, this Letter was communicated to a Person of great Quality and by him transmitted to *Mr. Reading*, *Mr. Daniel* and *Mr. Rich*, Gentlemen of known Prudence and Integrity, and to whom as being not only in the Commission of the Peace for the County, but also living in the Neighbourhood, it was thought most proper to commit the business of taking his Information. Accordingly on *Friday* the last of *September*, they went to him in the *Marshalsea*, and shewing him his Letter to *Cooper*, he own'd it to be his Hand-writing. Hereupon they ask'd him, "whether he was ready to make any such Discovery; as he therein mention'd: He replyed, "It was not a seasonable time, because *Sir James Butler* kept Court there that day, and many people being about, "great notice might be taken, which he desired might be avoided.

What



What his private reason was, why he would have the taking of his Information conceal'd, they being Gentlemen more wisely tenacious than to divulge the matter to a Croud, I leave the Reader the same freedom of guessing with my self; but this I know, that one of the Justices thereupon fairly told him, "that he would do well to take his own time and draw up what he had to discover in writing under his own hand at his leisure, and they would come any other time that he would appoint to receive it, Their condescension herein he seem'd very much to admire and prayed that it might be the *Monday* following. But before their going away *Fitz-Gerald* began to speak faintly concerning *Dr. Tongue*, "that he could discover something of him; but says he again presently, correcting himself, "he is dead, and why should I be believed of him? He added further, "that he could give an account of his coming from *Dunkirk*, and who they were that sent him "into *Ireland* about the Letters in the Wall. Upon this the Justices said to him, *Mr. Fitz Gerald, Draw up in writing what you can discover, but withal be careful you charge no man wrongfully, Remember there is a day approaching wherein we must all give an account of our doings and sayings.*

Thus you see, they treated him with a Candor becoming Gentlemen and a sense of Religion besitting Divines, for which he himself thank'd 'em and repeated his request, that they would come again on *Monday* following, by which time his Information should be ready; upon which they took leave of him. But as they were going down stairs, he begg'd of them for the Lords sake to pity his poor condition and give him some relief for he was ready to starve. To which when *Mr. Daniel* replyed, "that though they commiserated his condition and would give order to *Mr. Lowman* the keeper of the Prison, "that he should not be famish'd, yet they thought it not proper to give him any Money. *Fitz-Gerald* said, *Do you think, Gentlemen, if you should bestow your Charity I should tax you for subornation?* and *Mr. Daniel* replied again, *we will not trust you.*

But before I go on directly to the matter, 'tis necessary I make only a short digression thereby to give the Reader some light into the story of the Wall, which he may collect from the following Deposition of *Mr. Cooper* before Justice *Warcup* in the presence of three Witnesses.

### The Information of *Isaac Cooper* late Servant to *Dr. Tonge* deceas'd, taken upon Oath.

*Middx. B.*

I Do hereby acknowledg, and am willing to depose upon Oath, that when I asked *Mr. John Fitz-Gerald* who they were, who promoted his going for *Ireland* to discover those Papers he pretended were Concealed in the Wall of the Convent of *Galbally*; He replyed, He

B

would



( 6 )<sup>1</sup>

would discover the Contrivers, and mentioned my *L. of F.* Sir *W. W.* and my Lady *R.* [ *their Names are at length in the Original* ] and that it was a meer Contrivance. In witness I subscribe my hand

Isaac Cooper.

Jurat. 3<sup>1</sup> die Octobris 1681.

cor. me. Edmond Warcupp.

Let the Reader hereupon make what judgment he pleases concerning *Fitz-Gerald's* veracity, I return to the place where I left off. The Justices having parted with him in the manner before-related, not without expectation of some Discoveries he would make on Monday; He, instead of drawing up any Information, in probability the same day contriv'd, but manifestly on the next day sent two Letters, one to a Person whom he calls *Madam Jordan*, with another enclosed to *Mr. Slater* a Non-conformist Minister, which are as followeth,

October the first, 1681.

Madame Jordane

I Have to lett you understand that since you honoured me with your last visit, I have been putt to a very great Terror, For yesterday here were three Justices of the Peace with me to put me to A plunge A bout my Correspondencie with the Reverend Dr. Tonge, decessit, propounded many questions to me of him, And others, and promised if I should restench from my Testimonie of the Popish Plott, And helpe to accuse the protestants with it they would have released me from my Imprisenment, And likewise procure A pardon from the King, And continuall Maintenance. But when I told them that I had noe more to say to that matter then what I have Already declared to the King, Councill, And Parliament, And they said in Answer to that that I should deeply repent for not Embracing their proffer for I should be Compell'd by other means to Answer to their expectations. And thereupon they sayd that they would Come on monday next, which Cannot be Inmadgined how dreadfull it is to me; therefore I would humbly request you to shew these lines to Mr. Slater, Mr. Sylvestre And others to see if they Could procure me my Libertie speedily that I may shelter my selfe from their hands of Crueltie which I expect noe better from them therefore I request most humbly that if pitty or mercie be in the hearts of any Christians to lett mee Meete with it for otherwise my Life is like to be made a sacrifice for the protestant Cause, for Gods sake deare Lady Lett me heare speedily from if any Christian be so lov'd for mee it would be very seasonable, Madam I am almost starved for want of food, lett



( 7 )

*lett not the Bearer know the Contents of this letter which is now all from  
your faithfull friend untill death,*

*I pray deliver the Inclosed to Mr. Slater.*

John Fitz Gerrald.

*I desire to be hartily rememberd to Mr. Jordane, not forgetting your  
sweete selve and the verteous Lady that was with you here last.*

Reverend Mr. Slater,

**I** Have sent you to Acquaint with my distresse about 12 dayes agoe, In  
hopes of your Charitable Commiseration, But I am now under very dif-  
ficult Circumstances then ever I was therefore Sir I pray pittie me if you  
Judg it fit, for I am Almost famisht, And likewise Afraid of my life, I  
doe humbly Crave your Answer by Madam Jordane unto whom I writt of  
my Circumstance more att large which is all att present from Sir

Your very humble Servant,

*Shris die p-*

8 1.

John Fitz Gerrald.

Who this Madam Jordan is I know not, nor have any acquaintance  
with Mr. Slater; but 'tis manifest that they were both known to him,  
that they had given him hopes of procuring his Liberty, and that he  
thought the most likely way to prevail with them to expedite that  
Affair was to make diſſimal Outcries of the danger he might pretend to  
be in for the Protestant Cause; and to blacken the Reputation of these  
three Loyal Magistrates. For, when he had been so ingenuously and  
fairly dealt with by these Gentlemen, what else should move this Cai-  
tiff immediately to load with so many Reproaches Persons of such un-  
spotted Integrity as they are? Did ever any professed Actor upon a  
Stage alter the Muscles of his Face, or counterfeit a turn of his hu-  
mour, in less time than this man tack'd about his Conscience? No  
sooner were their Backs turn'd upon him, but he wrack'd his Inven-  
tion to fasten the greatest infamy in the World upon them. But his  
Liberty was that which he aimed at, and as it appears he was resolved  
to be a Protestant on their side, who should accept the service of his  
Conscience to make a Purse for the procuring it. Now I appeal to all  
men who have any Reputation lest them to lose, whether they are  
not concern'd to express a just detestation of all such palpable and per-  
nicious Forgeries, and of all those that countenance them? Who can  
be secure of his Credit, if it shall be in the power of a fellow who will  
sell his Soul for 20 £. and fresh Air, to impair it? But I am confident  
the honest Reader's Indignation at such foul practices will out-go any  
words which I can use to express mine by. To proceed therefore,



*Fitz-Gerald*, whether his consciousness of having injured these Gentlemen in so high a manner did really strike that terrour into him, which he only pretended in his Letter; or whether he flatter'd himself with hopes that if he could carry it cleverly on both sides, he should gain his Release by one means or other; whatever his Reason was, he endeavoured to decline the Visit of these Gentlemen, upon some slight pretences mentioned in the following Letter, which he wrote to *Mr. Rich* on the third of *October*, the day he appointed for the Justices coming to take his Information. The Letter was in these words:

Worshipfull Sir,

**H**AVEING Considered since you were here last, of several inconveniencies: that I may be made subject to by your Appearing here this day according to Appointment, Impediates me in shewing my selfe in it soe publicly, for it is not to be Imadgined what notice was taken of three Justices to Come to me of a Court day and it renders me very suspitious: therefore I thought fitt to request you not to Come hither: but to Some Tavern, or privat place heard by which will be more Convenient then to Come to this publick place where I am exposed to the Censure of all persons here I am Certain *Mr. Lowman* will upon your word lett me waite of you onely sending your man with a note to him requesting the same, And also Asshureing him of my safe return, Sir Moreover I have to lett you understand that though I desired to speake with your Worship by the Correspondencie you were pleasd to Creat with me thorow the means of *Mr. Cooper* I did not send for two Justices more Neither shall either speake or write before any person, or persons, but you, and one more that may be a witnesse on both sides: which if you are pleasd to yeild to, And to the place of Meeteing above proposed I shall waite of you with all humilitie, therefore Sir be pleasd to let me heare your Answer herein, And I shall Continue

Worshipful Sir,

Die 3<sup>o</sup> 8bris,  
Anno Domini 1681.

Sir your most humble Servant

*John Fitz Gerrald.*

*Mr Rich* himself having very well replied to this Letter, I think my self not concern'd to make any Remarks upon it, but shall insert the the Reply as it was pen'd by him, after I have told the Reader that *Mr. Rich* having extraordinary business that kept him from home that day, both missed of the Letter, and failed in the meeting, but that the other two Justices, *Mr Reading* and *Mr. Daniel*, not knowing of any such Letter sent to *Mr. Rich*, went to *Fitz-Gerald* and asked him if his Information were ready; To whom he answered, It was not, neither would he be examined by them; carrying himself very rudely and insolently towards them. *Mr. Rich's* Answer to *Fitz-Gerrald* the next morning was this,

*Mr. Fitz-Gerrald.*



October the 4th. 1681.

Mr. Fitz-Gerrald,

**I** Came home Late last night, and found your Letter directed to me, which surprizes me in several points, and makes me jealous, that you are employ'd by the Jesuits to do His Majesty and His Subjects Hurt, rather than any Good.

When Mr. Reading, Mr. Daniel, and my self were with you on Friday last, it was occasioned by your Letter to one Mr. Cooper, (whom we neither have seen or heard of, until you declared who he is) In which you desired to communicate to some Loyal Magistrate important matters to the service of the King and Countrey. But when we were with you, we thought it not convenient to ask you any Questions; but advised you in the fear of God, to do no man wrong, but faithfully and truly to draw up in Writing, what you had to discover, without respect of persons; which you promised should be ready against Monday at four in the afternoon. But by your Letter to me, you would insinuate, as if you were in some danger, and do therefore desire, I would correspond with you only. I do here declare, That in case you have any thing to be made known by way of Information, I will not take it, but in the presence of some one or more Justices of the Peace. For I pray where lies any danger for you to reveal the truth? which we did most seriously admonish you to do. As for sending for you to a Tavern, or other private place, I am against that; I am for doing all things above-board. And therefore if you have any Jealousie, make your discovery to some other Justices. We sought not the Employment.

You are very bold to say in your Letter, I have created Correspondency with you through the means of Cooper; I knew neither of you, nor ever heard of him, or of you, further than at the Commons Bar; Therefore this seems to me at first Sight to be a Popish Sham-trick. Sir, In case you think fit to draw up any thing which is just and true, by way of Information, and which as you said, should have concurrent Testimony with it; if you send for any other Justice of the Peace I'll assist him if there be occasion; but to do it alone with you, or to make Terms, as Cooper's Letter you sent him has it, I'll have nothing to do with you. An honest man does not make bargains to speak truth; You must apply your self to some persons, that are more zealous for Subornation, for I abominate the practice: and therefore expect not to correspond with me.

Yours

Fr. Rich.

I have desired Mr. Lowman to read this Letter with you; Do you satisfie him in what one thing I have had any Correspondency with you or with your Cooper, To which I expect your Answer.

C

Mr



Mr. *Lowman* having read this Letter with *Fitz-gerrald*, presently asked *Fitz-gerrald* whether he could charge Mr. *Rich*, or either of the other Justices that came to examine him, with any Correspondency held with him, or any dealing or tampering? He replied, no, he could not; but said he would write an Answer to this Letter, and appeared very angry that it should be sent unsealed, and Mr. *Lowman* be desired to read it.

This Mr. *Rich* did on purpose to shew that he would have nothing to do with him privately and without Witness, which was what himself desired in his Letter; but Mr. *Lowman* it seems was not a Witness of that sort which he intended, and from thence arose his passion upon a circumstance which so ill comported with his design. For not only from hence, but also from a clause in the conclusion of his foregoing Letter to Madam *Jordan*, wherein he desires her not to let the Bearer know the Contents of it; from both put together, I say, it is clear that he intended to hold a Correspondency, as he calls it, that is, covertly to treat with his dissenting Acquaintance and with some Loyal Magistrate at the same time, that so he might feel which of the two would bid highest to make a Discoverer on their side. But these honest Gentlemen, you see, refused to give him the least encouragement or any Reward of any kind, but only according to their Duty shewed themselves ready at his own time to receive any such Information as he should voluntarily and without a Bribe give in to them. Whereas on the other side, this Letter which contain'd such black Calumnies upon three Gentlemen whom he says to be Justices of the Peace, though he craftily conceals their Names, was cherished by Madam *Jordan* and Mr. *Slater*; and though they were bound by the Laws of Justice and Charity to have conveyed this Letter forthwith to some Magistrate whom they might expect to be so well-affected to the Government, and so tender of the Reputation of Gentlemen, as instantly to have went to *Fitz-Gerrald*, and learnt from him who these Justices were, and then have communicated the Letter to them, that if they were innocent they might have a speedy opportunity to vindicate themselves; instead of this, they shewed the Letter about to their own Friends and Confidants only, who made frequent Transcriptions of it, and long brooded upon it. Nay, to shew how willing they were to believe, or how much concern'd to have the Letter true, by order from the superiour Junctō, a Committee of four persons, viz. Mrs *Jordan*, Mr. *Parkhurst* a Bookseller, one Mr. *Serjeant*, and Mr. *Evans* at the *Bridg-foot* in *Southwark*, on the 13th of *October* went to him in the *Marshalsea*, to know if he would abide by that Letter, and satisfy them who the Justices were which he accused therein; and upon *Fitz-gerrald's* owning all the Contents of it, and naming the Justices he meant in it, 'tis more than probable he received from them Promises of Enlargement, as appears by the following Letters written to Mr. *Parkhurst* and Madam *Jordan*.



In the Marshalseas of Southwark October the 17th. 1681.

Mr. Parkurst,

**S**IR, I humbly desire you would be pleasd to lett me heare from you the Accompts of your proceedings in my Affairs as to, the getting my Libertie for me, Sir if I speake either Impertinent or Impurtuat be pleasd to impute it to my Tedious and distressed Imprisonment, And Madam Jordan, And you are all the friends, or dependencie I have, And being very destitute of any releefe for so long a time As that I am very Cold by reason that I am very Bare Clad, dear Sir, Therefore I pray Commiserat me if you have got any thing for my present releefe I beseech you send it to me; and I desire you would write to me by the bearer which is all att present with my best wishes to your sweete selfe, And Madam Jordane, I remaine Sir

Your very humble Servant,

John Fitz Gerrald.

In the Marshalseas of Southwark, October the 19th. 1681.

Madam Jordane,

**A**ND dear friend I am every Minute longing to heare the evint of your proceedings with Mr. Parcurt and the rest of your friends In your efficacious prevaileings for takeing me out of this miserable place, As I may In severall respects call it; whereof the first And Cheifest respect is: that I am every day troubled with the enemies of the Protestant Cause, tempting me to disowne what I have Affirmed before the King, Councill, And Parliament; And not onely tempting me but also Treatening if I doe not disowne it. It shall be worse for me. For they Tell me; they will Compell me to doe it, therefore I say it would proue prudence, And Charitie In these friends that were with you when here last, to procure me my Liberty, prudence for the forgoeing reason, and Charitie for the premises Considered I Am All most starved, for both Cold, And distresses, And allsoe much reflected upon by reason of those evill sperits that haunts me here, as I gave you an Account of: Mr. Lowman told me noe Longer agoe then this Morning, that if I doe not take a speedy Course to get my Liberty, And pay him what I owe him, he would turn me to the Common side where if I goe I shall Certainly Perish, to prevent which, And other Inconveniencies I have no other hopes but your sweet selfe, And your friends. Therefore I beseecke you lett me hear from you and them speedily, for feare of being surpris'd unawarse And as I have proven hitherto Stable



And stedfast to my Testimonie, and profession without relapsing or reflenging upon the Account of it, I humbly desire, And request you and all that are professors, and reall Lovers of true Christianitie, And Charitie, not to suffer me to lye under this grievous burthen noe Longer, for I am not able to beare it any more, therefore lett religion, be made manifest by faith, And faith by works In such a measure, As that I may haue noe reason to stumble but stick Close to my Toke as euer I have done since I came to England, which is all from your loueing friend and humble seruant as I may

John Fitz Gerrald.

I pray Madam be pleas'd to Answer me speedily, for Godsake Consider my Condition And my heauie grieuances that I ly under for the protestant Cause which otherwise I need not. I earnestly desire to be remembered to Mr. Jordane, And Mr. Recues, And to the Laydys both that were with you here Mr. Recues was here on Sunday night And left me a Note of Directions where I might Correspond with him but very unhapily I lost the Not. And I request you to send me an other, but Dear Madam I pray faile not In Answering this, or I know not what mischeeje may In sue if you .... not.

In the Marshalseas of Southwark, October the 21st, 1681.

Mr. Parcurst,

S I R, I was In great hopes of my Libertie, when I seen you had A hand in It, But I begin to despaire of it by reason of your delays, And I am Certaine if you had stured In it, It had been done since you were heare last, but hapily you will say you durst not meddle In it But Alas? Notwithstanding the great profession of Religion that severall persons makes yet I Could not meete with such another sufferer Amongst you all as my selfe for I haue Left a Certaine Maintenance And being I have Incurred the displeasure of my relations and Parent, I haue Exposed my life to A dangerous Circumstances att sundry times And occasions, for the Protestant Cause. And now I suffer a Tedious Imprisonment, and severall heauie distresses which I can Lawfully say I had noe neede to suffer as I doe, had it not beene for the Cause A bove mentioned, and I am not Certaine that many Persons who, professeth great matters would suffer the tenth part of what I have done, so that I see Cieerly that they doe not meane as they doe professe these Complaints Cannot well be taken amiss of me, Considering the reason I haue to speake them. Alias? what danger Cann there Insue In Conferring with other well affected persons About my businesse Therefore lett me not be blinded with such excuses for it is Impossible to make them pass Currant with me, Sir. I am hartily Sorrie that I mett with such occations, as to prouoke me to these expressions but if you thorowly consider all, you Cannot blame me, for God sake



*take take Notice of these few lines and allsee of my distresse; And Lett me know if you be Inclined to doe me a kindnesse And let me hear your Answer to a prisoner, And Sir your*

very humble Servant,

*John Fitz-Gerrald.*

Mr. Parcust,

*SIR, I writt to you the Last weeke and would not now trouble you but that I am very unwell, And have noe more hopes of Releefe, And with much a doe prevailed with the Bearer who is Steward of this Marshalseas to Carry this Note to you I promised him you would pay him which I usually request you to doe Sir I beseech you pittie my sickly And distressed Condition And allsee lett me know if there was any thing done as to my releefement which is all at present from*

your very humble Servant

*In the Marshalseas of South-  
mark 8<sup>th</sup> the 2<sup>th</sup> 1681.*

*John Fitz-Gerrald.*

Will not any man who reads these Letters conclude that he apprehended himself to have got a Hank upon them, as having receiv'd great assurances of his liberty from them upon conditions which he thought they would be unwilling to have divulg'd: For he seems now not so much to *crave* as to *demand* their Charity, and his Letter is plainly begging and menacing *party per pale*. For what can he be thought to design by those expressions, in that to Madam Jordan, of *efficacious prevailings*, and *it would prove Prudence*, and his fear of *being surprized unawares*, and his desire of *having no reason to stumble*; and his knowing not what *mischief might ensue*; and in one of those to Mr. Parkhurst of the great profession of Religion which several persons make, and his seeing clearly that they do not mean as they profess, and that he must not be *blinded with such excuses*; how, I say, can all this in the connexion wherein it stands in his Letters be otherwise plainly englished than thus. "Sir and Madam, you know very well, that you and others your Friends have been practicing with me, and encouraging me to persist in my groundless accusations of the three Justices, and have made me promises of procuring my Liberty if I would not reſlench from my Testimony. My Conscience indeed you did at first with a small Fee retain, but I find daily more and more that you are, what you delight to call your selves, Professours, and nothing else. And therefore I advise you to consider that mortal man, as you know, is frail, and that if you do not speedily get me releas'd, I may possibly be surpriz'd, and be apt to stumble, and think my self obliged to tell the whole truth of the matter.



Though this Representation may seem somewhat comical, yet that the substance of it was the real apprehension of the persons concerned is clear from hence, that Mr. *Parkhurst* was so terrified at the consideration of these Letters, that he thought it not safe to conceal the matter any longer; but looking upon it to be his best way to cry *Where first*, he applyed himself to one Mr. *Farding*, an ancient Inhabitant of the Burrough of *Southwark*, who had long had the honour of being known to these three Justices, and who though he be an avowed *Presbyterian*, is yet, I verily believe, a man morally honest. To him Mr. *Parkhurst* communicated all the foregoing Letters sent by *Fitz-Gerrald* to himself and others; upon the reading of which Mr. *Farding* said to him in his plain way, "Mr. *Parkhurst*, do not believe these things, but rather acquaint the Justices with them, and hear what they can say in their defence. Accordingly it was agreed upon, and in a day or two after Mr. *Farding* accompanied Mr. *Parkhurst* to Justice *Reading*, who upon perusing all the Letters, told them that there was not a word of truth in them so far as concerned the Justices; and for their fuller satisfaction he proposed that himself with the other two Justices his Brethren might go at the same time with Mr. *Parkhurst* and his Friends to the Prison, where he doubted not but they would soon be convinc'd of their Correspondent's knavery. Hereupon on *Friday* the 28th of *October*, the Justices with most of the other persons mentioned in these Papers, met at the *Marshalsea* Prison, where Mr. *Reading* spake to Mr. *Fitz-Gerrald* to this purpose.

"Mr. *Fitz-Gerrald*, you know that about a Month ago, we who  
 "are the three Justices here, were with you to take your Informa-  
 "tion, upon a Letter you had directed to one Mr. *Cooper*. The  
 "Letter you did acknowledg to be your Hand-writing. Now I ask  
 "you, when we were with you, did we direct or threaten you to what  
 "you should say? Did we put any Questions to you? Did we not  
 "advise you to speak truth, and accuse no man wrongfully? Had  
 "you remember that God is the God of Truth, and that there is a  
 "day of Account approaching? Did we not tell you, our Desire was  
 "that you should draw up your Information your self in Writing, and  
 "appoint your own time it should be ready at, and at that time we  
 "would return to you? Did you not appoint the *Monday* following,  
 "four o'Clock in the Afternoon to be the time? Were not Mr. *Daniel*  
 "and my self with you at that time? And did you not tell us you had  
 "not drawn your Information, neither would you be examined by us?  
 "Did you not say you had created a Correspondency with Mr. *Rick*,  
 "and to him you would give your Information? Did we not there-  
 "upon tell you, that you might have done well to have saved us this  
 "Labour? For the time we were all with you, did you not say we  
 "were all strangers to you, which made you so shy of us? Now that  
 "your Friends are come hither on purpose to be truly inform'd, give  
 "them a satisfactory account of the matter, and tell them the whole  
 "Truth.



*Fitz-Gerrald* sat pausing a while, and then said that he did not mean these three Justices, but others whom *Cooper* told him of. But he was soon confuted in that, for those four persons before-mentioned, who went on the 18th of *October* to enform themselves therein, testified that he named *Reading*, *Daniel* and *Rich* to be the three Justices he meant in his Letter. Furthermore *Mr. Cooper* himself having heard that there was to be at that time a meeting in the *Marshalsea* concerning *Fitz-Gerrald*, came thither, and being asked whether he had seen, heard of, or conversed with any of these Justices, he answered in the Negative; and proceeded to say, that it was true he had visited *Mr. Fitz-gerrald* upon the score of a former acquaintance contracted while he was *Dr. Tong's* Servant; and being with you, says he, applying his Discourse to *Mr. Fitz-gerrald*, you know I said thus to you, "Sir, I am sorry to see you in this condition, and you made Answer, "Never worse. Then said "I, *Mr. Fitz-Gerrald*, you can discover a great deal of the Plot, for you "was very conversant with my Master *Tonge*; was I in your stead I "would declare what I knew, for that might be the means to get you "out of Prison; you made me this Answer, that it was the joyfullest "News you had heard since you came into Prison; and afterwards you "wrote the Letter to me (*viz.* that mention'd in the foregoing part of "this Narrative) wherein you desired to be examined. *Fitz-Gerrald* did not deny any thing that *Cooper* had said; but being then called upon to give an Answer to what Justice *Reading* had question'd him about, he acknowledged that what he had said or written of the Justices was all false, and that he had groundlessly aspersed and traduced them. Hereupon a Gentleman there present asked him, "Why did you abuse the "Justices in such a wicked manner, as to write that vile Letter wherein you say, they would have had you to renounce from your Testimony of the Popish Plot, and help to accuse the Protestants with it; "for which they would release you, procure a Pardon from the King, "and continual maintenance? To which He confidently replied, He "hoped thereby his Friends would have got him speedily discharged. Upon this bold Answer, one of the Justices said to *Mr. Slater* and the other persons there, "Gentlemen from this foul dealing, I suspect that "the man is a Popish Priest still; therefore, pray, says he to *Fitz-Gerrald*, "Tell us what Religion you are of. To which he answered, "I "am a true Protestant. The Justices having put all the Questions they thought needful in order to clear themselves, desired *Mr. Slater*, *Mr. Sylves-ter* or any other there, to put what Questions they pleased for their better satisfaction. But answer was made they were heartily sorry that they had believ'd so much as they had done, and were very sensible from *Fitz-Gerrald's* Letters to one and the other, and from what they heard from his own mouth, that he had been greatly abusive; of which they would acquaint their Friends.

For once to strain a courtesie, I will make bold in the names of these Justices to thank you, Gentlemen; but certainly you do not think that by such a faint pretence you have made sufficient amends for concealing so long from them, and yet whispering privately among your own Party such foul aspersions cast upon them. Pray *Mr. Slater*, *Mr. Sylves-*



ffer, and the rest of you be pleas'd to disperse your selves to your usu-  
 al haunts, the *Amsterdam Coffee-House*, *Richards*, *Bruens*, &c. and ha-  
 ving got your wonted select Congregations about you, declare plainly  
 to them after the following manner. " Truly Sirs, we have, as you  
 " know, for a considerable time entertained and propagated an ill opinion  
 " of three of the Kings Magistrates, upon the account of a Letter which  
 " you have often seen, or heard mention'd by us: but finding our selves  
 " for certain private reasons lately oblig'd to enquire into the matter,  
 " and looking upon those Gentlemen in a good light, we find their Repu-  
 " tations spotless, and that they are persons perfectly innocent of any such  
 " things as we told you were laid to their charge. Therefore as our boun-  
 " den duty is, we make this Declaration to disabuse you, and right them,  
 " asking God and those Gentlemen forgiveness; and not only resolving for  
 " our own part, but advising you our Friends, not to be forward to be-  
 " lieve or disperse scandalous Imputations laid against persons in Autho-  
 " rity for the future. This till you have done, I must tell you that you  
 remain deeply in arrears to those Justices; and you will still stand indeb-  
 ted to them for their generosity, if they accept of this as satisfaction.

That what I have said concerning *Fitz-Gerrald's* clearing these Justices  
 of the Imputations he before laid upon them, is true, will be fully con-  
 firmed by the following Letter written with his own hand to Mr. *Reading*  
 the very next day after these passages.

In the *Marshalseas* of *Southwark* 8<sup>th</sup> the 29th. 1681.

Honoured Sir,

I doth not little grieve me that I should upon Any Account give you  
 such grounds of harbouring an opinion of falsitie of me, But I am not  
 Able to make a satisfactorie Appologie In my owne vindication, But Sir  
 finding your tender And Charitable Construction of my unseemely proceed-  
 ings as yesternight debated, And Censured of me accordingly, but Idoe in-  
 tend with Gods permission as I shall though not now, give your Worship an  
 ampler Account how it came to passe that I should render my selfe soe op-  
 robrious, And ridiculous upon Record; as I am so lookt upon, but Sir, I have  
 noe more to penn att present as to that effect, but the Lord of his Infinit  
 goodnesse remitt you. and yours in the measure that you, and that I  
 finde you are Incluable, to pass such things, and Sir, by it I am made  
 very miserable, as to my present Condition I was neuer worse, I therefore  
 most humbly request you to shew me somewhat of your good sympathy And  
 soe far as to Consider that I am in the deplorablest distress that euer  
 I was redust to for I have noe manner of releefe nor noe person to Commi-  
 serat me, so that I am almost starued, therefore Sir be pleas'd to releue  
 In Charitie, which is all from ever

Your most humble Servant,

*John Fitz-Gerrald.*

You



You see here that *Fitz-Gerrald* does in his way ask of Mr. *Reading* the Charity of Forgiveness and Alms at once; and I dare be bold to affirm that there is no Gentleman in Christendom more ready to grant both than He.

I have now done my story; the matter of Fact I have reported truly, and as occasion offer'd I have remark'd impartially; designing not to forestal or prepossess the Readers Judgment, but only to save him the trouble of deducing inferences himself, by directing his thoughts to that which naturally follows from the several occurrences contained in this Narrative. I would not have the Reader think that I have employed so much Paper and Ink merely to prove a beggerly Irish-man to be a bad Evidence. Alas! *Fitz-Gerrald* is a little forfeited wretch, ready at any time to mortgage his Soul to Feed and Cloath his Body. But here were Loyal Gentlemen and Magistrates defam'd, and they ought to be vindicated: and here were men of high pretences to Religion that secretly abetted and encouraged the foul aspersions thrown upon them, and their practices ought to be detected. I am a man in whom of all passions incident to Humane Nature, Anger is least predominant; and for that reason possibly these Justices may con me little thanks for representing the Fact so calmly and indifferently, when it afforded such plentiful matter for Satyr. But the meekest man upon earth cannot but express his resentments, that persons who appropriate to themselves the Name of TRUE PROTESTANTS should act thus contrary to the Rules of *Old Heathen Honesty*: That a person in Publick Office should on the last Lord Mayors Day, when a Gentleman offer'd to tell him how three Justices his Neighbours had like to have been ensnared by an Irish-man, reply quick upon him, Sir, "I can sure you the thing is true, and it is sworn upon them, and neither Justice *Reading*, Justice *Rich*, or Justice *Daniel*, Shall be able to wipe it off from them as long as they live; and, to conclude, that they who so loudly decry *Irish* Evidence when their own Friends are concern'd, should yet so willingly receive and embrace *Fitz-Gerrald's* Testimony against Gentlemen placed in Authority by His Majesty.

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FINIS.

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